

1/4

RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER

APR 03 2008

INVENTOR: RAYMOND HESLINE
SERIAL NUMBER: 10/553,132
FILED: 10/14/2005
GROUP ART UNIT: 2872
EXAMINER: DEREK S. CHAPEL
TITLE: OPTICAL ISOLATOR, ATTENUATOR, CIRCULATOR AND SWITCH

By Facsimile 571-273-8300

Heslin Pty Ltd
1/23 Monterey Road
Bilgola, New South Wales
Australia 2107

Phone: +612 9918 0082
Fax: +612 9918 0002
Email: rhpts@heslin.com.au

April 4th, 2008

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
United States of America

Dear Sir,

Response to Office Action of January 18th, 2008

35 USC § 103(a)

To address objection concerning obviousness:-

The Examiner cites Hesline, Patent Number 5,864,428 (hereinafter Hesline) as showing how two wedge shaped prisms with parallel optic axes can be used as a polarization beam splitting device in Zhang's Fig. 10 as modified by the examiner. The birefringent prisms of Hesline however have non parallel input and output faces (see Hesline, column 4, line 41 through column 4, line 42), while the birefringent prisms of Zhang, which are described by Zhang as beam